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PROGRAM Dan Rather Commentary STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE October 4, 1984 5:40 PM CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT A Spy Story

DAN RATHER: Dan Rather reporting, news and commentary.

This is a spy story. Actually, it's several spy stories -- stories of spies dragged in from the cold. Countering espionage in a moment.

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It has been a week of spy stories with details that read like scenes by Ian Flemming or John Lockaray, but, carrying decidedly more sinister overtones because these are nonfiction.

There were two arrests to start the week -- an East German woman was picked up as she allegedly tried to leave the country with classified information hidden in a pack of cigarettes, classified military cables, according to the FBI, information that Alice Michelson, a 67-year-old East German Marxism teacher was reportedly to turn over to the KGB.

This was a case with a U.S. sergeant in military intelligence acting as a double agent, and there appears to be all the trappings one associates with spy dramas, code names, drop points, safe houses the FBI believes contained devices to conceal and transmit, secret writing paper, documents containing microdots and records with the identities of other foreign agents.

A spy in the sky was involved in the second espionage

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case -- a United States spy satellite and photographs it took of a Soviet aircraft carrier under construction at a Black Sea ship yard. Some of those pictures showed up in Jane's Defence Weekly, a London military publication. Those are classified photos, according to federal officials, who are concerned that the printed pictures have given Eastern governments information on the power and capabilities of our sky spies.

The Navy intelligence officer, Samuel Morison, was taken into custody on charges of selling the photographs to Jane's. Morison serves as a part-time editor of the weekly.

Perhaps the most startling and ominous spy story began unfolding mid-week when announcement was made by the FBI of another espionage arrest. This time, however, the agency was pulling in one of its own, a mole in their midst. A 20-year veteran of the force, Richard Miller, accused of conspiring to sell classified documents to the Soviets. It was the first espionage charge against a member of the FBI's Counterintelligence Unit in the agency's history.

Miller is the father of eight, owner of a financially strapped avacado ranch outside San Diego.

Federal investigators say he was romantically invovled with a Russian woman before being approached by the woman and her husband to discuss passing secret FBI information to the Soviets for $65,000 in gold and cash.

According to the FBI, the material passed to the Russian couple provided a very detailed picture of FBI and U.S. intelligence activities. This was reportedly with specific information on tracking foreign agents.

Former CIA Director, Stansfield Turner, has commented that the extent of the damage to U.S. intelligence would depend on whether the documents disclosed major details about U.S. sources. If those details were included, according to Turner, it could be very injurious indeed.

The FBI says it will take some time to assess all the damage in the case.

Now, please, this message.

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Dan Rather reporting, CBS News.

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